



# AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.

ABN 68 539 329 715



## *Minutes of the ACW National Executive Meeting Held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Eastwood Baptist Church*

**Welcome:** The meeting began at 10.00 am, with a welcome from President Lyn.

**Devotions:** Elizabeth led the Devotions with the topic 'Still Hands' based on Psalm 88:9 'Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.' The Psalmist counsels 'Be still and know that I am God', but most of us are active. In our busy lives we find it hard to keep our hands still. The disposition to pray begins with empty hands, still hands. Be still and content in the presence of God. We need bring nothing except ourselves. We need do nothing except wait on him. Elizabeth prayed that we be kept from ceaseless busyness which keeps God at a distance.

**Present:** Lyn Middleton (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Isabel Hewitt, Lillian Hodges, Joy Inglis, Elizabeth McEwen, Nancy McLaren, Natalie McLeod, Shirley Mitchell, Jennifer Pepper, Denise Secomb

**Apologies:** Tricia Graham

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were accepted and signed as correct.

### **Conference Planning:**

The Draft Conference Program from the January meeting was discussed and fine-tuned. Detail was added to the program for each day.

It was agreed that nominations will be called for Reference Committee and Scrutineers on the day and that a time-keeper will be needed for debates;

The presentation of the Remembrance Service was discussed and a theme agreed on.

The Ecumenical Service prepared by Shirley was discussed, and agreed that there will be a printed order of service. The heads of churches or their representatives will be invited. Lyn thanked Shirley for the work she has done.

A bus tour of the northern beaches was agreed to for the free time on Wednesday afternoon.

### **Conference Business**

#### **Motions from last National Conference**

*Public Officer Guidelines* were reviewed and revised. A motion to be circulated with the working papers was formulated and agreed to.

*WKS Guidelines* have been reviewed, circulated and discussed. All are happy with them.

*ACWC* – These guidelines were discussed and suggested changes agreed to.

*Archivist* – Isabel has written a report about the archives, and a Motion will go out from Isabel's report.

*Motions Guideline Updates:* These were circulated prior to the meeting and all agreed with the changes.

A Motion from WA has been received and will be responded to by Isabel.

Shirley tabled three possible social justice issues with rationale and Motions. It was agreed that Domestic Violence was an important issue for ACW to support.

## **REPORTS**

### **President**

Lyn sent a message of support to the ACWC sisters in Nepal following the terrible earthquakes. They are all safe but continued prayer is needed for the country and its people as they rebuild their lives and communities.

A letter of condolence was sent to the Tasmanian Unit on the passing of Shirley Brooks. Lyn has received a lovely tribute to Shirley from Juanita Miller. A memorial to Shirley will be in the next *e-NEWS*. Lyn expressed the deep sense of loss felt by ACW at the passing of Shirley, and our sincere condolences to the Tasmanian Unit and our acknowledgement of all that Shirley did to further the cause of ACW.

Lyn requested that members of NE bring all archival material (including new material) to the July meeting, to be deposited in the archives; and for the August meeting have ready, as far as possible, all material needed to pass on to their successor.

A report has been received from the Forward Group.

### **Special Days Convener – Pamela Freeman**

World Community 2015 is ready to be sent out to the States. The Victoria Special Days Convener was contacted with the request that she pass on to the incoming NE the request that they pursue World Community Day in 2016 and advised the next on the list to prepare the service.

### **Secretary – Isabel Hewitt**

A letter from Marion Nankwanga, Rural Church Women's Link, Uganda, requesting that ACW visit Uganda to teach women. Isabel commented that our term is drawing to a close and we don't have expertise or knowledge to do much with this letter. It was suggested that Lynette Green and Elaine Johnson who have experience in Africa might have some ideas. Other churches who work in Africa might be able to give some guidance on this.

### **Website Manager – Brenda Dickinson**

The Homepage of the website will be updated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.00 pm.

The next meeting will be 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015, at 222 Pitt Street, Sydney.

President \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_